

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the Application is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added by way of the amendment.

Claim 10 was previously cancelled.

Claim 13 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Claims 1-9, 11, 12 and 14-21 are pending.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 10 contains allowable subject matter. Claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8, 11, 12, 14-16 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,595,392 to Johnson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,618,282 to Schlagen. Claims 9 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Schlagen and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,332,878 to Wray et al. ("Wray").

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable features of claim 10. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art. Claims 2-12 and 14-20 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Newly added claim 21 also includes the patentable features of claim 10 and is patentable over the cited prior art.

Further, please note that the mini sheet piece permits the interlabial pad to make phase shifts when the pad is folded (see, specification page 22, lines 9-10 and page 23, lines 17-18).


CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below if the Examiner believes any issue can be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment.

Dated: December 21, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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